

THE 16TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

A New Name - A New Mission Statement

For only the second time in its 45 year history CIB came out of a General Assembly with a new name. (The first time was right at the beginning in 1953 when CIB itself was created out of the former CIDB - 'D' standing for Documentation in the French acronym.)

The new title was one of the major changes approved to the existing Constitution and By-Laws at the General Assembly on 11th June 1998.

So it is henceforth:

The International Council for Research and Innovation in Building and Construction

The acronym 'CIB' of course remains.

The purpose, scope and objectives have also been revised to bring them up to date, given the environment in which CIB now operates and will be called upon to function in the future.

They are:

1. Purpose

The purpose of CIB is to provide a global network for international exchange and cooperation in research and innovation in building and construction in support of an improved building process and of improved performance of the built environment.

2. Scope

The scope of CIB covers the technical, economic, environmental, organisational and other aspects of the built environment during all stages of its life cycle, addressing all steps in the process of basic and applied research, documentation and transfer of the research results, and the implementation and actual application of them.

3. Objectives

The objectives of CIB are to be: a relevant source of information concerning research and innovation worldwide in the field of building and construction; a reliable and effective access point to the global research community; and a forum for achieving a meaningful exchange between the entire spectrum of building and construction interests and the global research community.

Other amendments that were approved included:

- The holding of an annual General Assembly, (instead of every three years as at present).
- The increase to a maximum of six (from four) in the number of Board Members that can either be elected by the General Assembly or co-opted by the Board from the categories of Full or Associate Members. This particular Article goes on to state that unless decided otherwise by a resolution by the General Assembly and also unless the Board itself prefers to do otherwise, the Board will co-opt these six Board Members. It should be noted that the (theoretical) maximum of six seats for Associate Members is certainly not the end of the story. Discussions will continue in the years immediately ahead

on extending the direct representation of this, the largest and fastest growing category of CIB membership.

- o More direct emphasis than hitherto is laid upon collaboration by formally stating in the Constitution that in achieving its objectives, CIB shall promote for international benefit appropriate collaboration with other international and national organisations.

None of the foregoing changes can in any way be described as a surprise for members since they were circulated as a document for the General Assembly to members earlier this year. They were then reproduced in toto in the special issue of Information (3/98) published for the General Assembly.

It would nevertheless be useful to repeat what was stated by way of a preface there which was that the CIB General Secretariat is domiciled in the Netherlands and CIB has the legal form of an Association (Vereniging). As such it is subject to the Dutch Law pertaining to a Vereniging. This means that the official Constitution is the Dutch version and the English version must not contain any items that are inadmissible according to the provisions of the Dutch Law.

A case in point is the requirement that a Vereniging in the Netherlands must convene a General Assembly each year. The practice in CIB was to do this every three years.

To fulfil the requirement for an annual meeting, an amendment is proposed to the Constitution whereby the yearly meeting of the CIB Board will be followed by a General Assembly, (as stated above).

All Members will receive an invitation to participate and the principal item on the Agenda will be a discussion of an annual Board's report. Naturally Board Members themselves will attend. No official quorum is stated.

In fact legal advice was taken throughout the process of formulating these amendments to ensure that they are in order. The Board expressed its confidence that these amendments which reflected the collective input from many sources over a period of three years could generate a framework within which CIB can work effectively in the future to attain its stated objectives.

Not quite yet !

One final note: The new Constitution and By-Laws actually become fully operative only after execution of a Notarial Deed.

The General Secretariat is now tying up the last administrative loose ends and we are planning to have the Deed executed by the date of the next CIB Board Meeting which is mid-October 1998.